

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub a7 *a7*

1. A disposable undergarment comprising a liquid-impervious base sheet contoured by longitudinally opposite end portions 5 extending in a transverse direction and transversely opposite side edge portions extending in a longitudinal direction, and a liquid-absorbent panel attached to said base sheet wherein said undergarment has a skin-contactable surface on which said panel lies and a non skin-contactable surface opposed to said skin-contactable surface, wherein:

skin-contacting sheets is stretchable in said longitudinal direction and substantially liquid-impervious are attached under extension in said longitudinal direction to said skin-contactable surface of said undergarment so as to cover said panel, said skin-contactable sheets having fixed surface areas secured to said longitudinally opposite end portions, respectively, and free surface areas extending between respective pairs of said fixed surface areas and not fixed to said undergarment so as to be spaced upward from said panel as said article curves in said longitudinal direction with its skin-contactable surface inside, wherein said skin-contactable surface of said undergarment is provided with regions in which said skin-contactable sheets are absent so that

Sub a7
cont.

said skin-contactable surface inclusive of said panel is partially surfaced in said regions.

Sub a8

2. The disposable undergarment according to Claim 1, wherein
5 *as* said skin-contactable sheets actually comprise a pair of belt-like strips spaced apart from and opposed to each other in said transverse direction and respectively extending along said transversely opposite side edge portions of said undergarment in said longitudinal direction so that said 10 skin-contactable surface inclusive of said panel is partially surfaced between these skin-contactable sheets.

Sub a9

3. The disposable undergarment according to Claim 1, further comprising a pair of substantially liquid-impervious leak-15 barrier cuffs spaced apart from and opposed to each other in said transverse direction and respectively extending along said transversely opposite side edge portions of said undergarment, said leak-barrier cuffs being disposed between said base sheet and said skin-contactable sheets and attached under extension 20 in said longitudinal direction to said skin-contactable surface of said article, said leak-barrier cuffs having fixed side edge portions secured to said transversely opposite side edge portions of said undergarment and extending in said

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longitudinal direction, free side edge portions being stretchable in said longitudinal direction and normally biased to rise on said skin-contactable surface and longitudinally opposite fixed end portions collapsed onto said skin-contactable surface and fixed to said longitudinally opposite end portions of said undergarment in such collapsed state so that said free surface areas of said skin-contactable sheets may be kept spaced upward from said free side edge portions of said leak-barrier cuffs.

Sub a 10

4. The disposal undergarment according to Claim 1, wherein said skin-contactable sheets are made of an elastically stretchable fibrous nonwoven fabric.

Sub a 11

5. The disposal undergarment according to Claim 1, wherein said skin-contactable sheets are made of a non-stretchable fibrous nonwoven fabric and elastically stretchable members are attached under extension in said longitudinal direction to said non-stretchable fibrous fabric so that said skin-contactable sheets may have stretchability in said longitudinal direction.